



Two Vermont Mathematics Educators Honored by President Obama

MONTPELIER - President Obama named 101 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Carol (Joy) Dobson, a mathematics teacher at Weybridge Elementary School, and Mary Ellis, a mathematics teacher at Enosburg Elementary School, have been selected as 2012 PAEMST awardees.

PAEMST was established in 1983 to identify outstanding teachers who can serve as role models for their colleagues. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field. Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration.

"One of the best parts of teaching is the satisfaction that comes from helping students challenge themselves, work through confusions, and think deeply in order to experience success," said Mary Ellis, Enosburg Elementary School teacher. "When students are openly sharing strategies and discussing misconceptions to help each other learn, they are being successful on many levels. This award is a celebration of that success and an affirmation of a collaborative learning environment."

The educators receiving these awards are recognized for significantly improving their students' understanding of mathematics and science, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership.

"Being recognized as an early educator validates the important and meaningful work of young students and teachers in the primary classroom," said Joy Dobson, Weybridge Elementary School teacher. "This award is a testament to the number of great teachers, mentors, and talented, dedicated colleagues I am privileged to work with that inspire me daily to grow and learn. It also demonstrates the tremendous impact of a community that consistently values and supports excellence in learning for their children."

Nominations for this award come from the teachers' colleagues, administrators, students, parents of students, and other community members. To be eligible, a teacher must spend half, or more than half, of his or her time in a public, private, or approved independent school, and have a minimum of five years teaching experience. The 2014 awards will honor mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers working in grades K-6. Nominations for the 2014 PAEMST are open through April 1, 2014.

Learn more about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) here: <https://www.paemst.org/home/view>. Learn more about the 2012 recipients here: <http://recognition.paemst.org/awardees>.